



Maasai community members to engage in discussions on their role in combating illegal wildlife trade. Photo: CONNECT/IUCN.

EAST AFRICA

CONSERVING NATURAL CAPITAL AND ENHANCING COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY RESOURCES IN EAST AFRICA

The East Africa region is endowed with rich biodiversity and natural resources that transcend national boundaries. These include vast landscapes, iconic wildlife species, watersheds, arable lands, and minerals. Broadly defined as natural capital, these resources are an important source of economic revenue and critical to East Africa's economic growth. The region's nature-based tourism industry, which is almost entirely dependent on wildlife and protected areas, contributes 7.5-10 percent of GDP to the region and supports local communities depending on the natural capital for their livelihoods. Wildlife contributes both economically and intrinsically to the region's natural capital and is a critical asset for East Africa's future growth and sustainable development.

The purpose of the Conserving Natural Capital and Enhancing Collaborative Management of Transboundary Resources in East Africa (CONNECT) is to strengthen the conservation and management of transboundary natural resources including wildlife and landscapes in the region. The project seeks to strengthen East African Community's (EAC) institutional leadership and learning to deliver on its regional mandate and commitments to conserve and

manage shared environment and natural resources in East Africa. The project works to strengthen and support existing regional conservation initiatives through generating evidence-based information, innovative methodologies, tools, and best practices for the benefit of the EAC Partner States and their citizens. The project has the following result areas:

- Collaborative conservation and management of transboundary natural resources enhanced.
- Perceived value of living wildlife increased; and
- Wildlife poaching and trafficking reduced.

OUR WORK

The project activities are geared towards improving conservation and management of natural capital in the East African region. Key intervention areas include:

- i. Provision of technical assistance to the East African Community (EAC) on the formulation and implementation of transboundary natural resources management policies, strategies, and legal frameworks.
- ii. Building the capacity of local communities for better engagement in transboundary community-based tools and methodologies for combatting illegal wildlife trade in transboundary landscapes.
- iii. Promoting the role of women and youth in combating illegal wildlife trade.
- iv. Supporting the establishment of a Regional Forum for Wildlife Prosecutors in East Africa to enhance wildlife law enforcement in East Africa.
- v. Increasing political support on the economic and intrinsic value of wildlife and natural ecosystems.
- vi. Supporting the development and application of the Eastern Africa Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (TWIX);
- vii. Enhancing existing initiatives on combatting wildlife crime and good governance at critical transit ports in East Africa.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Strengthened regional environment and natural resources management policy process (dialogue, formulation, harmonization, implementation, and learning) for evidence-based decision making.
- Improved sustainable management of key transboundary landscapes.
- Increased awareness of the economic and intrinsic value of living wildlife.
- Reduced demand for wildlife products.
- Improved regional and bilateral collaboration on the enforcement and prosecutions of wildlife crime.

BUDGET: USD \$4,900,169

DURATION

2019-2023

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

EAC Member States of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan Tanzania and Uganda and other strategic countries in the region.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO)

KEY PARTNERS

Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
Worldwide Fund for Nature
East African Community

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